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MASS SHOOTINGS

CNN: The Florida teen who was 'infatuated' with Columbine and made threats as she went to Colorado is now dead

An armed teenager whose threats forced the closure of almost 20 school districts in Colorado has been found dead, a law enforcement official told CNN. Sol Pais, an 18-year-old high school senior from Florida, was found dead Wednesday morning, the law enforcement official said. Authorities said Pais was "infatuated" with Columbine and made threats as she traveled to Colorado this week -- the same week as the 20th anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre, which left 13 people dead.

OFFICER WELLNESS

Associated Press: School shootings' effects on police officers understudied

On the 20th anniversary of Columbine, the effects of trauma and turmoil experienced by law enforcement authorities who respond to school shootings are still largely unknown. Experts say agencies are reluctant to let researchers interview officers and dredge up potentially painful memories. Many officers also view seeking psychiatric help as a sign of weakness - particularly in elite units like SWAT - and see their own mental health as secondary when civilians are affected by school shootings and other grave loss.

OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS

NBC 4 Los Angeles: LAPD sees 25% reduction in officer-involved shootings

The Los Angeles Police Department saw a 25% reduction in officer-involved shootings last year, compared to the previous year, according to a report presented to the Board of Police Commissioners Tuesday. The report also found there was a 56% reduction in the number of officers discharging their weapons, from 110 to 48, along with a 49% reduction in the total number of rounds fired, from 491 to 250. LAPD Chief Michel Moore credited newer department policies that call on officers to use more de-escalation techniques as a top reason for the decrease in deadly encounters.

TECHNOLOGY

Reuters: Microsoft turned down facial-recognition sales on human rights concerns

Microsoft Corp recently rejected a California law enforcement agency's request to install facial recognition technology in officers' cars and body cameras due to human rights concerns, company President Brad Smith said on Tuesday. Microsoft concluded it would lead to innocent women and minorities being disproportionately held for questioning because the artificial intelligence has been trained on mostly white and male pictures. AI has more cases of mistaken identity with women and minorities, multiple research projects have found.

New Orleans Times-Picayune: Promotion rule changes for NOPD, firefighters draw critics

City officials pitched a plan Monday (April 15) to change how promotions are doled out for New Orleans police and firefighters, placing less emphasis on formal test scores while creating a new selection group whose members are chosen by the city's chief administrative office. Critics, particularly among local union representatives, were quick to frame the proposed rule changes as a gateway for possible abuse, potentially allowing department heads to cherry-pick candidates rather than basing promotions on merit alone.

RECRUITING

Dallas Morning News: Bills to help cops pay back student loans approved in Texas House, Senate

It was a good day for cops at the Texas Capitol, as separate bills to create a student loan payment assistance program for law enforcement officers passed both chambers of the Legislature.

LGBT ISSUES

NJ.com: Newark police blazing trail with new protections for transgender suspects

The ten pages of rules get right to the point. If a Newark police officer arrests somebody who is transgender, they should not question that person's gender identity. Newark is not the only department re-writing how officers should interact with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning their gender identity (simplified as LGBTQ). The West Orange Police Department recently began training on similar rules, and the attorney general's office is working on guidelines that would apply to the entire state.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT

USA Today: What is kratom and what's it made from? Increasingly popular herbal drug tied to over 90 fatal overdoses

The over-the-counter herbal drug kratom has been linked to an increasing number of overdose

deaths, federal health officials said this week. Kratom was a cause of death in at least 91 fatal overdoses in the United States from July 2016 to December 2017, and 152 tested positive for the substance in a postmortem toxicology during that time period, health officials found.

GUN VIOLENCE

New York Times: Gun research is suddenly hot

In 1996, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stopped funding research into the causes of gun violence. And for decades the field suffered from neglect: low funding and a corresponding limited interest in academia. Then came a series of high-profile mass shootings. And donations from billionaires. A result has been a recent surge in state and private funding for gun research, and a revival in interest among journal editors and young academics beginning their careers.

IMMIGRATION

Arizona Republic: Yuma mayor declares emergency, warns of 'imminent threat' from release of migrant families

Yuma Mayor Doug Nicholls issued a proclamation of emergency, saying the continued mass release of migrants directly into his border community had become an "imminent threat" to life and property in the area. The city lacks the resources it needs to handle the migrants, he said. Yuma is the first border city in the U.S. to declare a state of emergency as part of its response to the latest surge in the number of migrant families reaching the U.S.-Mexico border to seek asylum. The emergency proclamation was a plea for federal and state assistance.

MISSING PERSONS

Government Technology: Los Angeles County locates missing seniors with technology

More than 10,000 adults went missing in Los Angeles County last year, according to California state records. A substantial number of those people were elderly, with cognitive impairments, including dementia or Alzheimer's, which puts them at a higher risk of getting lost. Now, a program launched by L.A. County is using a radio tracking system to keep an eye on the whereabouts of those most at risk.

CBS News: How 2 cops are using their singing to unite a community

A lesson in how to unite a city comes a capella-style. One is a former college basketball player. The other a gospel singer. When they came together as cops - something clicked. After Michael Norwood and Moe Badger were recorded singing inside a restaurant in Buffalo, their musical partnership became a sensation.

POLICE EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Toledo (OH) Blade: Perrysburg names new police chief

The Perrysburg City Council on Tuesday hired Detective Patrick Jones of the Perrysburg Police Department as the city's new police chief.

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